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# Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 7

July 1997

## Leadership Team & Partnership Council Wrestling With Sharp Budget Reductions

by Beth Horn, Director, RO Public & Governmental Relations

**T**he Region is faced with a serious budget problem — we must make some tough choices that will bring our organization and work processes in line with our projected budgets," said Regional Forester Hal Salwasser as he shared concerns about how the Region would work through the reduced budgets resulting from declining trust funds and a steady or declining appropriated budget.

The Regional Leadership Team and Partnership Council (Regional Forester, Deputy Regional Foresters, and the Region's three Union officials) are looking for ways to solve the urgent budget dilemma facing the Region.

The first step was inviting employees to offer suggestions and ideas for cutting costs (see accompanying article). The Partnership Council released a conceptual proposal for change in early June and asked forest supervisors and staff directors to conduct "listening sessions" with employees, communities, and others to get a reaction to the proposal and gather additional ideas.

At a recent meeting in Condon, Deputy Regional Forester Dick Bacon outlined some of the reason for the Region's current budget situation. "In FY '95 the total Regional budget was \$248 million; the projected budget for FY '99 is \$198 million, a decrease of \$50 million. Unit costs in the Region for programs that generate funding, such as timber, are the highest in the Forest Service, making our timber program the least competitive, nationally, for that portion of the budget. In addition, our trust funds have been declining and we are approaching the point where we are unable to collect enough funds to meet our needs. Our work force and work processes are basically the same as they were when our budgets were higher; while the budgets have gone down, we have not tailored our work or our organization to those lower budget figures."

In addition, said Bacon, the Region has had a number of very specific resource issues that have required additional funds, further reducing

flexibility for the Region's regular programs. Examples of these issues include the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, the New World Mine, the Northern Great Plains Assessment, the Snake River Adjudication, and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness support.

During the meeting in Condon, forest supervisors and staff directors shared the information they had heard from their own listening sessions with members of the Partnership Council. Many new ideas were offered. Some ideas presented in the Partnership Proposal gained fairly easy agreement; others, however, had little consensus. Many of the solutions offered contradicted each other, depending on the viewpoint of those offering the ideas.

The Partnership Council is seeking additional information on many parts of the proposal before reaching a decision. The forest supervisors and staff directors will be collaborating with each other to seek ways to break down barriers to more effective and efficient work processes and organizations.

The Partnership Council hopes to have their decisions out by the end of July. However, they wish to take enough time to assure prudent decisions before proceeding. They expect decisions to be in three categories:

**Category One:** Ideas that can be implemented right away, subject to agreements with local Union officials.

**Category Two:** Ideas that will be more specific and will require additional work for implementation. A 60-day implementation planning period is envisioned during which the what, why, and how will be addressed. These plans will be developed by affected staff groups and forests in full collaboration with communities, officials, and partners.

**Category Three:** These will be long-term, cost-saving ideas that will need a longer timeframe to work through social, political, and other considerations.

## Employees, Citizens Submit Reorganization Comments, Suggestions

**I**n anticipation of budget reductions of \$20 to \$30 million dollars in the next two fiscal years, the Regional Leadership Team (RLT) and the R-1 Forest Service Partnership Council (R1PC) are working to downsize, reorganize and achieve more efficient operations within the budget and staffing restrictions.

After announcing that anticipated budget reductions will require some changes in the Northern Region's organization and operations, in April the RLT and R1PC invited public and employee comments, suggestions and proposals for consideration.

Regional Forester Hal Salwasser said "We will work with our communities as well as our employees as we decide on and implement changes in the organization or the way we do business." He reported "More than 1,200 individual ideas have been submitted to us from Forest Service employees on how we could change our ways of operation and deal most efficiently with the anticipated budget shortfall." Suggestions, comments and proposals were also received from private citizens and community leaders.

After a content analysis of the employees' ideas for improving efficiency in the Region, the suggestions were summarized and organized by key points and topics. The RLT and R1PC reviewed and studied the 43-page summary of employee comments at a three-day (July 8-10) meeting at the Condon (MT) Work Center, Flathead National Forest.

See **COMMENTS**, page 9



## Grasslands' 60th Anniversary Celebrated by Forest Service

**D**eputy Regional Forester Kathleen A. McAllister, Custer National Forest Supervisor Nancy T. Curriden and representatives from the region's four National Grasslands participated in a celebration, May 24, at the National Grasslands Visitor Center, Walls, South Dakota, to mark the 60th anniversary of the National Grasslands. The celebration was part of National Grasslands Week, May 18-24.

Twenty National Grasslands (approximately four million acres) are under the administration of the USDA Forest Service. The four National Grasslands in the Northern Region are in North Dakota and South Dakota. All four of the Grasslands are under the administration and management of the Custer National Forest:

**Cedar River National Grasslands, N.D.,  
6,717 acres, Lemmon, S.D.**

**Grand River National Grasslands, S.D.,  
154,981 acres, Lemmon, S.D.**

**Sheyenne National Grasslands, N.D.,  
70,268 acres, Lisbon, N.D.**

**Little Missouri National Grasslands, N.D.,  
1,028,045 acres, Dickinson, N.D.**

Drought, dust storms, floods and insects struck the heart of the agricultural lands of the Great Plains region in the 1920s and early 1930s. Responsibility for these lands was assigned to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1935, and in 1937 the Secretary of Agriculture was directed "to develop a program of land conservation and land utilization...to correct maladjustments in land use."

Four million acres of these lands became "National Grasslands" in 1937, to be managed by the Forest Service as part of the National Forest System.

## Students, Counselors Recognized for Weed Work On Idaho's Main Salmon

*by Laura Smith, Public Affairs, Nez Perce NF, Grangeville, ID.*

**T**he students and counselors of Idaho's Mountain Cove School, Boise, were recently recognized for their participation in the Forest Service's spotted knapweed control program on the main Salmon River.

The school received a Certificate of Achievement and letter of congratulations from the Chief of the USDA Forest Service, Michael Dombeck: "Your caring, unselfish attitude and dedication have allowed us to provide a quality of service to the public and care for the land that otherwise would never have been possible."

Six students and three counselors rafted the 80-mile stretch with the Salmon River Forest Service River Patrol, pulling more than two acres of the noxious weed in 1995 and tripling that amount in 1996. They freed 15 to 20 tent sites at five major camps on the river.

They eliminated weeds at Magpie Campsite, a coastal disjunct area with flora and fauna unique on the Salmon River. The students and counselors also helped recover garden spots at the Lantz Bar historic home-site.

Each year these sites are enjoyed by 10,000 to 15,000 floaters, power boaters and other visitors.

Private property owners in the river corridor have praised the work of these volunteers and have, thus, been encouraged to join in the effort. The work of the Mountain Cove School volunteers has resulted in a several acre net reduction of spotted knapweed and contributed substantially to the restoration of wild river, heritage and wildlife habitat values within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

## Representatives Hill & Chenoweth Come to Kalispell for Town Meeting

*by Allen Rowley, Public Affairs Officer,  
Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, MT.*

U.S. Representatives Rick Hill (Montana) and Helen Chenoweth (Idaho) conducted a town hall meeting May 19th in Kalispell, MT.

Subject of the public meeting was access to Federal lands, with emphasis on impacts on tourism, recreation, timber receipts, related concerns and collaborative opportunities to address access problems. A similar public meeting was conducted May 17 in Wallace, ID.

Three panels, one of forest users, one panel of individuals involved in collaborative efforts, and a third panel of local and national government officials, read prepared statements before a crowd of approximately 120 people.

Questions were not accepted from the audience. Instead, Hill and Chenoweth presented questions to the panels. Written comments were accepted from the audience for the Congressional Record.

Representative Hill selected the individuals for the panel. His selections sparked an extended local debate over the balance of the panels.

The widest range of opinion on forest access came from the forest user panel. On this panel, comments ranged from "the best hunting starts at the end of the road" to a passionate plea to be treated with the same respect give grizzly bears.

Even in this panel, a common theme of locally-based solutions was heard. Throughout the meeting, various panel members spoke of the need for locally-based solutions built by collaborative groups. Even though individual panel members did not agree on land management decisions, the majority did agree on local solutions being the best.

Most panel members, in response to questions from Hill and Chenoweth, called for resource management problems to be solved by interested people at the local level.

# 14 R-1 Projects Receive NFF Grants

**F**ourteen proposed Northern Region projects have been approved for \$114,000 from the National Forest Foundation's 1997 Challenge Cost Share Program.

In announcing the awards, Regional Forester Hal Salwasser explained that "The competition for this funding was high. Our proposals competed with 200 other proposals. We were successful in the majority

of the proposals we submitted. I am proud of this level of participation and the outstanding efforts of R-1 employees."

Gayle Starr, RO Public & Governmental Relations, R-1 coordinator for the NFF Challenge Cost Share Program, said the three proposals not accepted for funding may be strengthened and resubmitted for the 1998 competition.

## R-1 Projects Accepted for 1997

West Fork Bitterroot Elk Habitat Restoration, Bitterroot NF	\$3,000
Trout Creek Canyon Handicap Access Trail, Helena NF	1,000
Path of the Grizzly Interpretive Trail, Lewis & Clark NF	13,000
Whites Gulch Interpretive Signs, Helena NF	2,000
Big Mountain Environmental Education Center, Flathead NF	7,400
Gallatin River/Deer Creek Accessible Fishing, Gallatin NF	2,500
Wildlife/Wildlands Education Stewardship, Northern Region	30,000
Avalanche Center, Gallatin NF	12,000
Bob Marshall Foundation, Gallatin NF	12,000
Inter Agency Education Coordination, Gallatin NF	2,500
Preservation of Historic Dude Ranch, Gallatin NF	3,000
Idaho Forest Fire Museum/Interpretive Ctr, Clearwater NF	3,000
Avalanche Center, Flathead NF	5,000
MT Wildlife Rehabilitation & Nature Center, Helena NF	<u>10,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$114,000</b>

"Congratulations on your success in acquiring the necessary funds from the National Forest Foundation to complete these R-1 projects," Salwasser said.

National Forest Foundation membership application folders are available in visitor information offices at the RO, Forests, Districts or by contacting Laird Robinson, RO Public & Governmental Relations: (406) 329-3434 or via DG (L.Robinson: R01A)

## Board of Directors Meets New Woodsy



*KATHY DAUGHERTY introduces the new Woodsy Owl to the Northern Region's Board of Directors at a meeting in the RO.*

**W**oodsy Owl, sporting a new look and a new slogan, paid a visit to the Regional Office Board of Directors' meeting in May.

Woodsy's new look was introduced during National Earth Day events to announce his expanded mission of "Lend a Hand—Care for the Land!" Tucked under his wing, is teaching materials, designed in cooperation with the Children's Television Workshop, for children between ages five and eight.

Currently, one costume is available through R-1's RO Public and Governmental Relations staff. Forest and District Offices who would like to schedule the use of Woodsy Owl for conservation education classes and special events should contact Kathy Daugherty in the RO, (406) 329-3511.

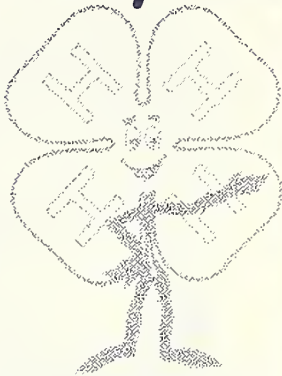
At his introduction in Washington DC, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck explained, "Woodsy's new program opens a window of knowledge to children about the world and provides a better understanding of the results of their actions."

For 26 years, Woodsy Owl has been carrying the USDA Forest Service's message to children. Now sporting a backpack and hiking boots as part of his new image, the updated Woodsy embodies today's conservation philosophy.



# 4 Grangeville 4-H Groups Plant Arbor Day Trees

by Laura Smith,  
Public Affairs,  
Nez Perce NF,  
Grangeville, ID.



**I**daho Department of Lands (IDL) and the Forest Service helped Grangeville, Idaho, area 4-H groups plant approximately 50 trees to celebrate Arbor Day in April and May.

Five 4-H Club groups met Ed Hinds, an IDL forestry technician, and Jill Lamb, fire prevention technician, Clearwater RD, Nez Perce NF, Grangeville, at the Lions Park in Grangeville on April 28 to plant a variety of seedlings to celebrate Arbor Day and demonstrate community involvement. The Forest Service provided the seedlings.

Arbor Day was May 21 at Elk City. The snow tends to stick around longer up there!



**GRANGEVILLE 4-H GROUPS** pause after planting trees in the Lion's Park in Grangeville.  
Photo by Jill Lamb, Clearwater RD, Nez Perce NF.

Elk City ID Ranger District employees Kara Stockwell, Alexia Cochrane, Bob Roberts, Kurt Kluegel, Toby Cotton, Dan Bilton, John Burt, Anita Long and Dave Snodgrass taught 75 Elk City school students how to plant a tree to insure their survival.

Forest Service employees wielded the hoedads, and the kids each planted their own tree and placed shade cards. Each tree was tagged with the child's name so they can monitor their tree's growth rate and survival over the years.

## Two New Videos Added to Library

"Mustangs on the Mountain" and "Landscape of History" are the titles of two recent video additions to the Forest Service's video library.

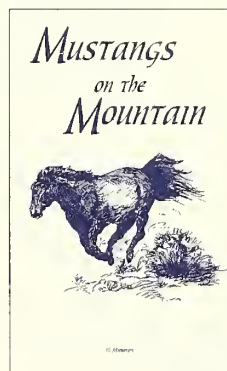
The two new videos were directed and produced by Gene Colling, audio visual production specialist, RO Public & Governmental Relations office, Missoula.

There are now more than 120 videos in the loan library. The video tapes are available on free loan. Requests for video tapes should be sent to:

**Forest Service Video Library**  
% **Public Service Audience Planners**  
5341 Darry Avenue, Suite "Q"  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
Telephone (818) 865-1233

The complete library listing is on the Forest Service National and R-1 home pages on the Internet.

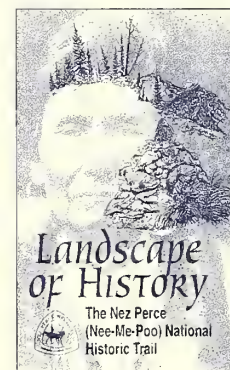
### **MUSTANGS ON THE MOUNTAIN**



(15 minutes) was produced in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Billings (MT) Resource Area. In a remote Federal preserve along the Montana-Wyoming border, a band of wild mustangs roams the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. Some believe these mustangs carry the blood of Spanish horses that date back 400 years. This video tells how this Wild Horse Range came to be, how a visionary minister has made the mustangs a lifelong crusade and the efforts needed to preserve this symbol of the American West.

### **LANDSCAPE OF HISTORY**

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo)  
National Historic Trail



(18 minutes) was produced by the Forest Service to highlight the designated trail route and a vision for trail protection. The tragic story of the Nez Perce Trail is summarized: for thousands of years the Nez Perce followed this trail across the mountains to visit friends and relatives and hunt buffalo; in 1877 it became a trail of sadness as 750 Nez Perce men, women and children made a heroic yet futile flight as they were pursued along the 1,170-mile trail by forces of the U.S. Army. Congress established the national historic trail in 1986 to insure that the route's significant sites be preserved and visited by generations to come.

Both programs are excellent for grades 7 through 12 and for adult audiences.





TOM WAGNER

## Darby District Ranger Tom Wagner Is Selected As "Outstanding Citizen"

by Dixie L. Dies Public Affairs Officer,  
Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton, MT.

**T**om Wagner, District Ranger at the Bitterroot National Forest's Darby (MT) Ranger District, has been honored by the Darby Civic Group as "Outstanding Citizen of the Year for 1997."

Tom came to Darby six years ago with his wife, Joan and their three children, Danny, Michael and Kaitlin. Tom has been very involved in the Darby community with activities such as the Darby Civic Group, coach for local baseball and soccer teams, coordinator of the first State Babe Ruth Baseball Tournament, church and school activities, Darby Fun Day, upgrading the city park facilities, construction of the Darby Clubhouse, and tree planting.

As a member of the Darby Action Team he helped complete a Community Action Plan which has been used to apply for and receive several grants over the last four years, including upgrades at the baseball fields, installation of the heat source pump at the Clubhouse, seed funds for the Community Arts and Recreation Program, beautification of the downtown business area, community forestry programs and funding to support science in the high school.

According to the Darby Civic Group, "Tom has been here for Darby. he is loyal and rarely says no when asked for help. Is there any question that Darby is a better place because Tom is here? Thank you, Tom. You are appreciated."

Tom is the second Bitterroot National Forest employee to be named Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Bill Terrill, a former Bitterroot National Forest employee was recognized two years ago.

## Trail Guru Hesselbarth Recognized by M.T.D.C.

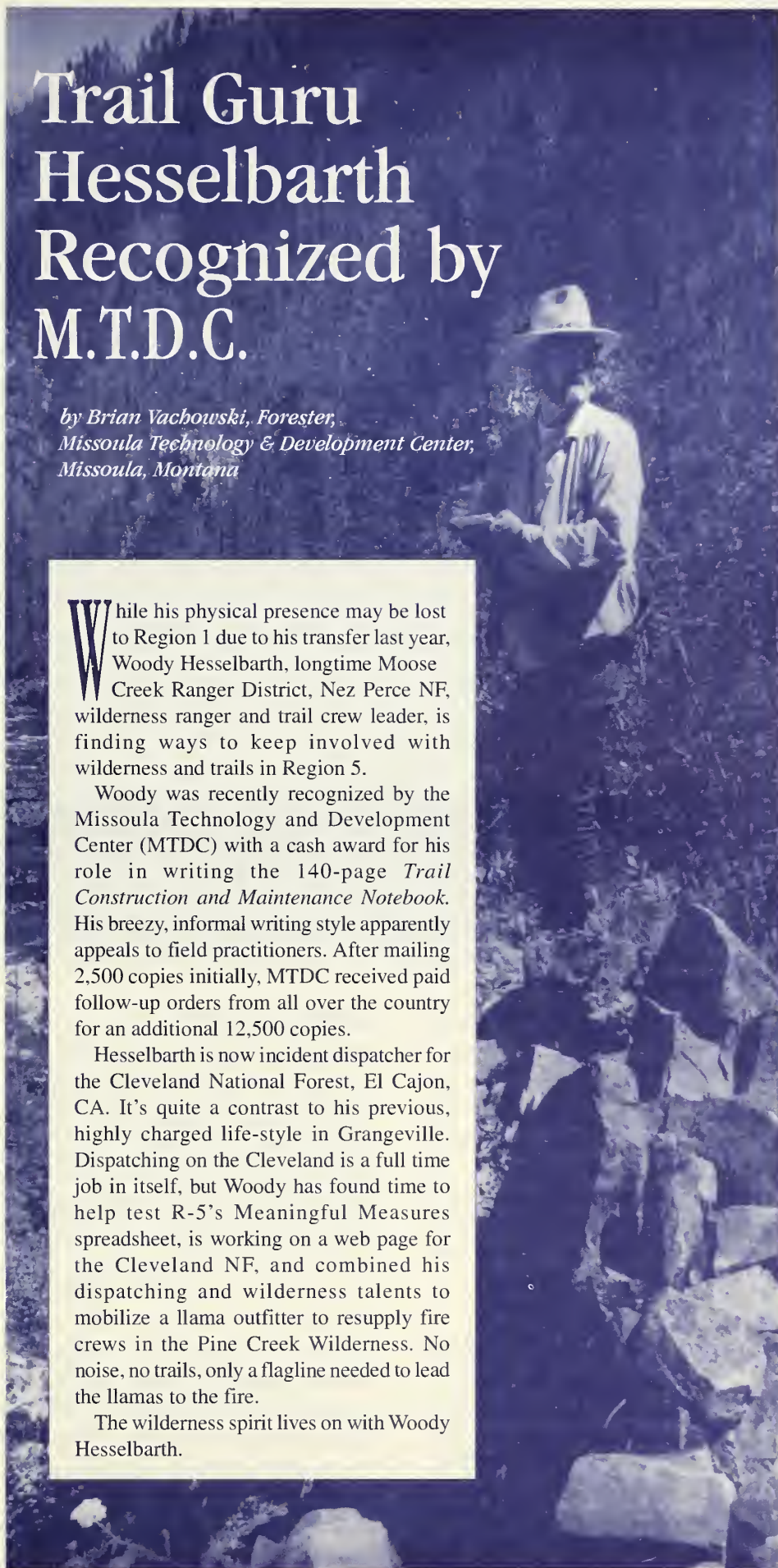
by Brian Vachowski, Forester,  
Missoula Technology & Development Center,  
Missoula, Montana

**W**hile his physical presence may be lost to Region 1 due to his transfer last year, Woody Hesselbarth, longtime Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce NF, wilderness ranger and trail crew leader, is finding ways to keep involved with wilderness and trails in Region 5.

Woody was recently recognized by the Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) with a cash award for his role in writing the 140-page *Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook*. His breezy, informal writing style apparently appeals to field practitioners. After mailing 2,500 copies initially, MTDC received paid follow-up orders from all over the country for an additional 12,500 copies.

Hesselbarth is now incident dispatcher for the Cleveland National Forest, El Cajon, CA. It's quite a contrast to his previous, highly charged life-style in Grangeville. Dispatching on the Cleveland is a full time job in itself, but Woody has found time to help test R-5's Meaningful Measures spreadsheet, is working on a web page for the Cleveland NF, and combined his dispatching and wilderness talents to mobilize a llama outfitter to resupply fire crews in the Pine Creek Wilderness. No noise, no trails, only a flagline needed to lead the llamas to the fire.

The wilderness spirit lives on with Woody Hesselbarth.





# Genetic Resource Program Restructured For Ecosystem Management

*by Jud Moore, RO Public & Governmental Relations.*

**A** pioneering genetics and tree improvement program was initiated in the Northern Region in the 1950s. The 42-year-old program enjoys nationwide admiration and respect among professionals in forest genetics.

Over the years the program has been periodically evaluated and restructured to reflect the Forest Service's changing priorities. With the current move to ecosystem-based management, another re-evaluation of the Region's genetics and tree improvement program was in order to incorporate genetic principles into ecosystem management.

The program is now the Genetic Resource Program for Ecosystem Management (GRPEM). It reflects the reality of declining budgets and the need to provide new genetics services to ecosystem managers. The GRPEM mission is "Healthy and productive ecosystems through genetics."

It is composed of two components: Genetics Help for Ecosystem Managers (GENHELP) and Tree Improvement (TI). Dr. George Howe provides the leadership in providing the GENHELP services. Dr. Mary Frances Mahalovich provides the leadership for the TI side of the program.

"Folks in the field are welcoming the new services they're getting from the GENHELP side of the program," said Howe. "Everyone seems to understand and support the refocused tree improvement program. In this part of the world, forest health depends on these breeding programs. In the long run they will help significantly to meet the increasing global need for wood while easing the pressures for harvesting timber in more fragile or sensitive ecosystems elsewhere, both at home and abroad."

Currently more than 28 percent of the 10.5 million tree seedlings produced at the Region's tree nursery in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, are superior western white pine trees developed in the R-1 genetics program. More and more genetically superior seedlings are being planted in the Region's reforestation program. These western white pine trees have resistance to blister rust, a disease accidentally introduced into North America around 1910. Seeds for the superior trees are harvested at R-1's three white pine seed orchards.

GENHELP is providing advice and project management in ecological genetics for the Northern Region and northern Forests of Regions 2 and 4. It includes genetics advice for landscape assessment areas: mitigating the effects of past dysgenic treatment and assessing genetic variability of threatened and

## Short Notes



### EMPLOYEES SUGGESTIONS INVITED:

On June 18, the Regional Leadership Team invited employees' suggestions for dealing "with the budget reductions looming on the near horizon...share your ideas as to what steps we might take to deal with the organizational, infrastructure process — anything and everything." Hundreds of employees responded. After a content analysis of the suggestions, a summary of the ideas has been prepared for review by the RLT. The Regional Partnership Council (R1 PC) will prepare a proposal of actions to be taken; these proposals will be shared with the field, inviting feedback from employees. RLT hopes to implement the actions by the beginning of fiscal year 1998.

### FOURTEEN MONTANA COMMUNITIES

have received a total of \$228,412 in Rural Community Assistance (RCA) grants to help with economic development and community enhancement projects. Communities in Montana to receive the RCA grants are Elkhorn, Lame Deer, Superior, Lima, Twin Bridges, Deer Lodge, Virginia City, Ennis, Miles City, Eureka, Milltown, Thompson Falls, Florence and a joint project sponsored by Elk Park, Jefferson County and Butte.

### RCA GRANTS FOR 18 IDAHO COMMUNITIES (R-4 &

R-1) total \$278,061 and include Lenore, Nez Perce City, Pierce, Weippe, Bonners Ferry, Elk City, Lewiston-Idaho County,



endangered plant species. GENHELP also offers genetics recommendations for the revision of Forest Plans.

The Tree Improvement side of the program is generating selectively bred planting stock for the highest priority needs for restoring or sustaining ecosystems and for meeting human needs for wood. An example is the successful breeding of western white pine for resistance to blister rust. The planting of rust-resistant trees is gradually helping restore the cedar-hemlock-white pine ecosystems of the Northern Rockies.

The Tree Improvement Program has also targeted advanced generation breeding for improvement of western larch. Projects in three other species are "on hold" for second generation improvement pending more funding. Dr. Mahalovich is also guiding a ponderosa pine tree improvement project for the Boise and Payette National Forests of the Intermountain Region. The Tree Improvement Program also provides state-of-the-art guidance on safe conifer seed transfer in Regions 1 through 4.

For added details about the restructured Genetic Resource Program for Ecosystem Management, contact Howe (406/329-3183) or Mahalovich (208/883-2350).



**LARS HALSTROM**, East Side Zone Tree Improvement Coordinator, Gallatin National Forest, control pollinates an elite lodgepole pine growing in the test plantation zone in the Bitterroot National Forest.



**WARREN ROBERTS**, Western Montana Zone Tree improvement Coordinator, Flathead National Forest, selects an exceptionally fast-growing and cold-hardy western larch tree growing in a genetic test at the Bigfork (MT) Tree Improvement Area in the Flathead National Forest.

Photos by Lars Halstrom.

Council, Carey, Paris-Bloomington-Montpelier, Glenns Ferry, Wendell, Mackay, Stanley, Leadore and Shelley.

**STATE FORESTERS** in Montana, North Dakota and Idaho have been allocated \$2.1 million by the Forest Service in matching funds to finance a wide array of forestry programs to benefit rural landowners, rural fire districts and communities. The 1997 allocation is down approximately 1% from 1996. The Region provides technical and financial assistance to State Foresters through 12 separate programs.

**JIM REID**, RO Director of Information Systems, was reassigned in June

to a WO position located in Missoula. He will assist in the implementation of the IBM contract, with focus on the development of the technical policies and procedures to implement Open System Technology servicewide. Steve Solem, RO assistant director of Ecosystem Assessment and Planning, has been detailed for 6 to 8 months as Director of Information Systems.

**RECREATION FEE DEMONSTRATION** sites on three R-1 National Forests: Bitterroot NF, Lake Como Recreation Complex; Flathead NF, recreation lodging program (six cabins and one lookout); and Gallatin NF, Earthquake Lake Visitor Center. Four other R-1 recreation sites

are being considered for addition to the recreation fee demonstration program under the Omnibus Consolidated Re-scissions & Appropriations Act. The legislation permits public lands agencies to establish recreation fees to help pay for operation, maintenance and improvement of facilities and opportunities for visitors.

**CAMPGROUND FEES** are being charged this summer for R-1 individual camp sites at 194 campgrounds and 40 group sites. Daily fees range from \$5 to \$12.50 for a single family unit. R-1's campgrounds have a total capacity of more than 19,800 people at one time. There are also 200 campgrounds where a fee is not charged.



# Missoula Smokejumpers Place Granite Columns Where Firefighters Fell

from articles in *GREAT FALLS (MT) TRIBUNE* 5/21/907  
and *THE MISSOULIAN*, Missoula, MT, 5/25/97.

On August 5, 1949, 13 firefighters lost their lives on the Mann Gulch fire, in the Helena National Forest, near the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, on the Missouri River, about 20 miles north of Helena, MT. Twelve of the firefighters were smokejumpers.

Forty-eight years later, on a Tuesday, May 20, 1997, six Missoula-based smokejumpers parachuted down into the grassy gulch. They came to install granite columns where each of the 13 firefighters fell in 1949.

White, concrete crosses, each with the name of one of the firefighters, were placed on the steep slopes in 1950. But time is taking its toll. The cast-and-rebar crosses are weathering and crumbling.

Wayne Williams, smokejumper squad leader at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot, spearheaded plans to replace the crumbling markers. Contributions came

from the Forest Service, Smokejumper Welfare Fund, Intermountain Fire Sciences Laboratory in Missoula, and relatives of two of the firefighters killed in the Mann Gulch fire.

John Maclean and Jean Maclean Snyder, children of Dr. Norman Maclean, author of the book about Mann Gulch, "Young Men and Fire" (published in 1992), made contributions from the book royalties.

Ted Stetler, Western Monument Service, Missoula, designed the 36-inch autumn rose granite columns. Stetler and his staff made the monuments. Names of each of the firefighter is set in relief in the granite columns.



**ONE OF THE NEW GRANITE MEMORIAL COLUMNS.** The white, concrete crosses were placed on the slopes of Mann Gulch in 1950.

GREAT FALLS (MT) TRIBUNE photos by James E. Larcombe.



**SMOKEJUMPER SCOTT BELKNAP** digs a hole for a new granite monument. Fellow smokejumper Hardy Bloemeke looks on. Both smokejumpers are based at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot.

Former smokejumper Tim Eldridge hiked to Mann Gulch to work with others in selecting a landing spot for the six jumpers who came from Missoula to place the granite columns.

Six horsemen from the Last Chance Chapter (Helena, MT) of Backcountry Horsemen used fourteen of their horses to pack in the 100-pound granite columns, cement, shovels and other work tools. The Forest Service plane made a number of passes over the gulch to parachute in supplies and hundreds of gallons of water.

Jim Beck, in his 23rd year as a Forest Service smokejumper, said he came to Mann Gulch with the other smokejumpers to help place the granite memorial columns "To make sure what happened here isn't forgotten."

The remaining crosses will be left to weather away. "These new markers do change the mosaic on the slopes," explained Laird Robinson, an ex-smokejumper who is now on the RO Public & Governmental Relations staff in the Northern Region headquarters. "The important thing is that they're not forgotten."

At a later date a 14th granite column will be placed as a memorial to Harry Gisborn, fire scientist, Intermountain Station, who died of a heart attack, Nov. 9, 1949, while investigating the Mann Gulch fire. It will be placed lower down the gulch, near the Missouri River.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



## White Bird, Riggins, Grangeville Mark Wildflower Week, May 18-24

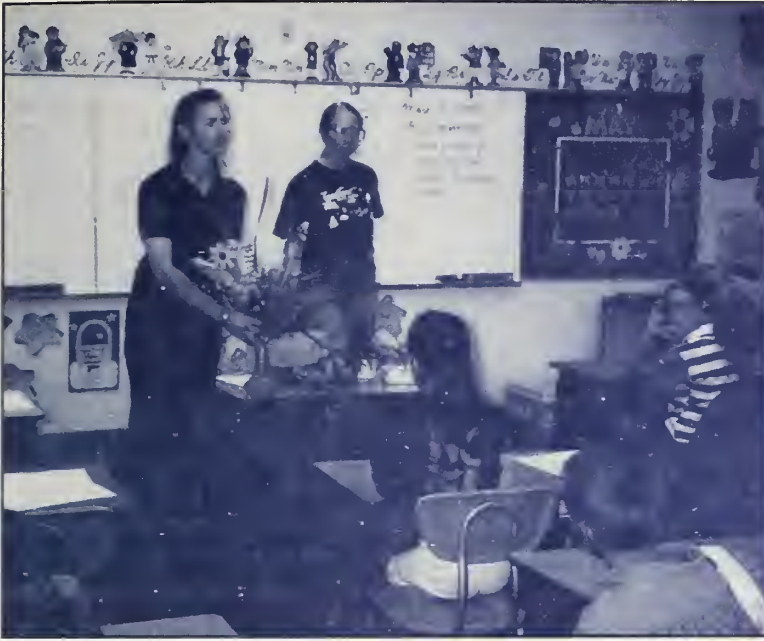
by Laura Smith, Public Affairs, Nez Perce NF, Grangeville, ID

Seven classes of grade school students in Grangeville, Riggins and White Bird participated in Forest Service programs during National Wildflower Week, May 18-24.

The Forest Service programs were presented by Michelle Putz, wildlife technician, and Jill Lamb, fire prevention technician, both from the Clearwater RD, Grangeville, ID, Nez Perce NF. They made presentations to elementary school classes in the three towns to increase students' awareness of the importance and value of wildflowers and plants in our lives and surroundings.

Putz and Lamb also explained how to prevent the spread of noxious weeds in north Idaho.

They used a bouquet of native wildflowers and noxious weeds to stimulate students' interests and illustrate topics at various points of the programs. There were poster art contests at Elk City and Grangeville for students 7 to 8, 9 to 10 and 11 to 12. First, second and third-place winners were awarded T-shirts, water bottles and frisbees.



JILL LAMB, & MICHELLE PUTZ use a bouquet of native wildflowers and noxious weeds to illustrate a presentation on flowers and plants for a third grade class at Grangeville (Idaho) elementary school, during National Wildflower Week. Photo by Janice Reinhardt, 3rd grade teacher.

## Kirk Horn On Assignment: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

by Jennifer Knox, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Over the next couple of years, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) will undertake an enormous, but vital task—delineating the occupied elk ranges across North America.

Thanks to a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, the RMEF will receive some expert help in completing the challenge.

Kirk Horn, Director of Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries, & Rare Plants for the Forest Service's 4-State Northern Region, Missoula, has joined the RMEF staff [under Intergovernmental Personnel Act] to coordinate the international elk habitat mapping project.

Horn is serving as the RMEF point in coordinating the gathering, collating and mapping of elk habitat information in cooperation with a myriad of State, Federal, corporate, tribal, private and military land managers. This information will be compiled on a Geographic Information System (GIS) database across all land jurisdictions and ownerships.



KIRK HORN

Ultimately, this long-term mapping commitment will benefit everyone involved with elk management by providing a unified, big picture glimpse of elk habitat and its status. It will facilitate land acquisitions, conservation projects, environmental education, and other elk-related activities in key areas, based on long-term goals.

Martin Prather has been named to serve as acting director of Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries & Rare Plants for up to one year.

## COMMENTS

Continued

These ideas and suggestions are being evaluated for possible implementation.

Copies of the summary report of employees' comments and suggestions is available from the RO Public & Governmental Relations (Jud Moore (406) 329-3093 or via DG j.Moore:R01A).

Comments are organized under 12 topics: general comments (situation/process); reinvention process; budget; program delivery & management; RO organization; Forest reorganization; personnel management; facilities; fleet; computers; other cost-saving ideas; ways to increase revenue.

The content analysis summary displays the variety and range of comments from employees. Many of the suggestions concentrated on cost-saving. Some of ideas are "doable"; others will require more analysis by the RLT and the RIPC. A large number of the comments are reflected in the previously released RLT-RIPC proposal. Many suggestions reflect broad-based employee agreement. Other suggestions demonstrate employee disagreement on a variety of topics.



## Carolynne Merrell, Heritage Resources Volunteer, Honored

by Shirley Marsh, Personnel Assistant, Human Resources Program Coordinator, Bitterroot National Forest

Carolynne Merrell, a volunteer in heritage resources for the Bitterroot National Forest, was recently awarded the Chief's National Volunteer Award for Individual Service.

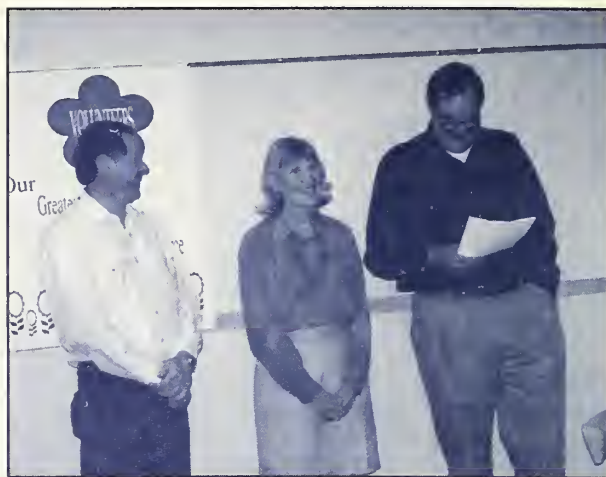
Merrell, a professional photographer, uses a computer digital process to enhance and record pictographs and petroglyphs. Her techniques not only records images already lost to the naked eye, but does so without causing further damage to the existing images.

Regional Forester Hal Salwasser presented the award to Carolynne on behalf of Chief Mike Dombeck in recognition of her exemplary service. "Your service is commendable and you exemplify what the Forest Service stands for, 'Caring for the Land

and Serving People'." Salwasser said in presenting the award. "You can look at your volunteer service with the Forest Service with satisfaction and pride."

Merrell joins previous Bitterroot National Forest volunteers recognized for a National Award: George Regan and Dot Goodrich.

Margaret Sharp, member of the Getting Things Done Volunteer Resources Committee for Ravalli County, also presented Merrell a certificate recognizing her volunteer service in Ravalli County.



Steve Kelly, Bitterroot NF Supervisor (left), Carolynne Merrell, Bitterroot National Forest Volunteer, and Hal Salwasser, Regional Forester for the Northern Region, at the presentation of the National Volunteer Award for Individual Service to Merrell. Photo by Shirley Marsh.

## SCSEP Employee, Salmon R.D., Receives Award

by Laura Smith,  
Public Affairs, Nez  
Perce NF,  
Grangeville, ID.



**BOB SMOTHERS**

Bob Smothers, a Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) employee on the Salmon River RD, Nez Perce NF, has worked on the district for several years. Among other assignments on the District, Smothers is the operator for the water and sewage facilities on the District compound.

Smothers recently received special recognition from the Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) as the "1997 Idaho Wastewater Operator of the Year" for demonstrating outstanding concern for the proper care and treatment of wastewater.

"Bob Smothers is a highly dedicated, self-motivated person," said Cathy Conover, Secretary/ Treasurer for the Rapid River Water & Sewer District. "At the age of 75, Bob attained his G.E.D. so he could qualify to enroll in the State of Idaho's water management certification program."

In addition to his seasonal work on the Ranger District, Smothers is operator for the Rapid River Water & Sewer District, Riggins, Idaho.

## Deborah DesLaurier Temporary Ranger, Dillon (MT) R.D.

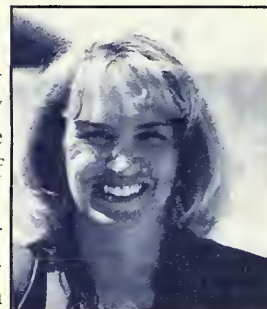
Deborah DesLaurier, Bridger-Teton NF, Jackson, Wyoming, has been named to serve temporarily as district ranger for the Dillon (MT) RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Supervisor Debbie Austin announced that DesLaurier will hold the job for four months (120 days) until a permanent replacement for Barry Hicks is selected. Hicks moved to a Forest Service job in Missoula after serving as the district ranger at Dillon for 12 years.

A 10-year veteran with the Forest Service, DesLaurier (pronounced "de-laurie-AY") holds a bachelor of science degree (1985) in range and wildlife science from the University of California/Davis and a master's

degree in wildlife biology (1987) from the University of Idaho.

She started her Forest Service career in 1987 as a range technician on the Nez Perce NF. Subsequent assignments included the Shewen National Grassland, Lisbon, N.D., Custer NF; Klamath NF, Yreka, California. DesLaurier transferred to the Bridger-Teton NF in 1993.



**DEBORAH DESLAURIER**

## Jim Guest Retires: 21 Years With F.S.

Jim Guest, Helena, MT, natural resources team leader, Helena National Forest, retired in May after 21 years with the Forest Service.

A native of Jackson, Wyoming, Guest holds a Ph.D in range ecology from the University of Wyoming (1970). His thesis work was on "Carrying Capacity of Elk Summer Range In Southern Yellowstone National Park and the Teton Wilderness."

From 1969 to 1971, he was statewide range ecologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. He first worked for the Forest Service as a resource assistant on the Shoshone National Forest, 1976-1978. Subsequent assignments were District Ranger, Mark Twain NF, Fulton, MO.

1978-1981; Resource Staff Officer, Salmon (Idaho) NF, 1981-1987; range program manager, Pacific Northwest Region, RO, Portland, 1987-1991; natural resources team leader, Helena NF, from 1991 until his retirement in 1997. Mr. & Mrs. Guest will continue to make their home in Canyon Creek, MT. They are the parents of two grown children: Kristina, an attorney in Missoula; and Andy, a senior in range and watershed management at Montana State University, Bozeman.

Guest plans to conduct a natural resource consulting company in Canyon Creek, "Canyon Creek Natural Resources."



# Byron Bonney Named F.M.O. For Year of '97

Byron J. Bonney, the recently-named fire staff officer for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests, received the first national "Fire Management Officer of the Year" award presented by the Forest Service.

Associate Deputy Chief Bill McCleese made the announcement at the first national forest fire management officers' meeting in Albuquerque, NM.

Jerry Williams, R-I Director of Air, Fire & Aviation, Northern Region, said the award is given in recognition of an employee with personal and professional attributes that exemplify the highest standards of a forest fire management officer.

"I cannot tell you how proud the entire Northern Region fire management group feels," Williams wrote in a message to employees. "Byron's selection was from among the best in the country."

Bonney was nominated by his peers in the Northern Region. After being selected as the regional winner, his nomination was forwarded to the national competition along with those of eight other top-notch fire management officers from throughout the country.

Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor Coy Jemmett and Clearwater National Forest Supervisor Jim Caswell were not surprised at Bonney's selection. Both

supervisors agree Byron is a credit to the agency. The supervisors cited his technical expertise and ability to work with people as exceptional. Those skills led the forest supervisors to name Bonney as the fire staff officer for the two Forests in late April. Bonney succeeds Dave Poncin who retired in January.

Bonney has been instrumental in planning and implementing a combination of the fire organizations on the Clearwater and Nez Perce NFs. Currently, he is working on a multi-forest effort to use burning as one method to restore ecosystems in the Salmon River canyon.

At a community level, Bonney assisted Clearwater County disaster relief officials during the floods in 1996. He provided expertise which enabled county officials to organize their efforts using the incident command system—a method of organizing personnel and resources that is used during crises such as large wildfires.

Bonney's response to the award was a recognition of his peers. "One thing I can say is that the people I work with make me look good," he stated. "I also think this is a tribute to the two Forests and other people who work here. Nobody does anything apart from the others they work with. Fire management is a team effort and always will be."



*JERRY D. BURNS, (right) law enforcement officer, Lincoln RD, Helena NF, accepts the U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Award from Secretary of Agriculture Daniel R. Glickman.*

## Jerry Burns, "LEO of Year" Receives USDA Honor Award

Jerry D. Burns, law enforcement officer (LEO), Lincoln (MT) RD, Helena NF, was named the Forest Service's 'Law Enforcement Officer of the Year' in April and received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Award in June.

Mike Dombeck, Chief of the Forest Service presented, the "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award to Burns April 10 at a meeting of Forest Service law enforcement officers in Alexandria, Virginia.

William F. Wasley, director of Forest Service Law Enforcement & Investigation, told Burns "Your commitment to excellence and your exceptional accomplishments while performing your duties are well appreciated and recognized.

"I am impressed by your dedication and work ethic while assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Burns received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Award from the Secretary of Agriculture Daniel R. Glickman, June 10, in Washington, D.C. in recognition of his "lending invaluable support and assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, making possible the apprehension of Ted Kaczynski near Lincoln, Montana, in March of 1996."

## Homer Bowles Retires: 35 Years Federal Service

Homer R. Bowles, RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage and Wilderness (RMLH&W), retired in July after 35 years of Federal service. He worked 33 years with the Forest Service.

A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Bowles holds a degree in forest and wildlife management (1962) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Mr. & Mrs. Bowles served on the Bernard Peak fire lookout, Kaniksu NF, the summer of 1962. From January 1962 to January 1963, Homer worked on the Kaniksu National Forest. He served in the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1965 and returned to the Kaniksu NF, 1965 to 1968.

After assignments in the Forest Service's Northern Region headquarters Div. of Range and Wildlife, Missoula, 1968-69; on the Sula (MT) Ranger District, Bitterroot NF, 1969-1973; on the West Fork/ Magruder RD, Bitterroot NF, 1973-1976; and the Missoula RD, Lolo NF, 1976-1979; he served in the Lolo NF supervisor's office, Missoula, from 1979 to 1983.

For the past 14 years, 1983-1997, Bowles served in recreation management in the Div. of RMLHW in the Northern Region headquarters.

Mr. & Mrs. Bowles will continue to make their home in Missoula. They are the parents of two grown children, Daniel in Seattle and Lynne Himes in Missoula. They also have a 5-year-old grandson, Brandon Himes, who lives in Missoula.





## Three Retirees Identify Warehouse

Three R-1 Forest Service retirees correctly placed the "Into The Past" fire warehouse picture that ran on the back page (page 12) of the May issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS.

Phil Yovetich, Missoula, and Virgil Lindsey, Ennis, MT, correctly placed the fire warehouse in Missoula. Yovetich said he thought it was on Orange Street, south of Broadway. Bob Van Gieson, Missoula, said that the fire warehouse in the 1922 picture was on Orange Street, between 3rd and 4th streets. The building is now occupied by the "Open Road" bicycle shop.

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### NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

- Articles should focus on Forest Service-related subjects or activities, or people engaged in agency-related activities.
- Send article(s) to NORTHERN REGION NEWS as soon as possible after event. Too often interesting articles run the risk of not being printed because they are not timely.
- No poetry, jokes or cartoons.
- Do not use technical language. You can tell the readers about a technical subject by using non-technical language. Avoid jargon not understood by people outside the technical topic.
- Submit articles on DG (or typewriter). Double space. Indent between paragraphs.
- Keep under 150 to 300 words (about 3/4 of DG page); no more than one page - can be shorter. For brief coverage of an event, consider sending in photo(s) and tell story in photo cutlines.
- Any story can be improved with photos (black/white; color prints; color slides; any size) and illustrations. Be sure to send along caption information for pictures/illustrations.
- If you have articles/pictures/illustrations or questions, telephone Jud Moore, RO Public Affairs Office (406) 329 - 3093. DG mailing address: j. Moore-R01A. Postal Service mailing address: Box 7669, Missoula, Montana 59807.

## Did you notice anything different about the June issue?

Our little operation has finally ventured into the world of digital publishing.

All of the photos in issue 6 were scanned into a disk that was sent to the printer. No camera copy or photos were sent through the mail.

Several other publications have already been done this way. This should save us time and \$\$.

Carol (graphics) Evans

## INTO THE PAST

Built in 1908, this cabin is thought to have been the first Forest Service building on the Nez Perce National Forest. This picture was taken by Charles H. Scribner in 1951.

What was the name of this  
Ranger Station?



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